

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of operation ~~of a first device~~ in a network having a plurality of devices each including ~~the first device and a second~~ at least one of a plurality of device types, the method comprising acts of:

~~sending a simple device description query message to the~~ a first device discovering at least one second device of the plurality of devices;

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ requesting a simple device description for each discovered second device for which the simple device description is required; and receiving from the second device a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including a the device type value representing the type of the second device, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of subsidiary device types depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type; and

~~sending a query message to the second device requesting an extended device description from the~~ each second device for which the extended device description is required ~~when the simple device description indicates that the extended device description is available, and the extended device description is required by the first device, and not sending the query message to the second device when at least one of the simple device~~

~~description indicates that the extended device description is not available and the extended device description is not required by the first device; and receiving from the second device the extended device description message of variable length when the extended device description is available on the second device and an extended device description is required by the first device.~~

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an act of establishing the network address of the second device before the act of sending a simple device description to the second device.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the simple device description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, ~~the simple device description message including a device type value representing the device type of the second device; the device type value being selected from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top level elements including a controller device type and a basic device type, and at least one further level each of the subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends, but not including any further level of subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.~~

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the first device is a controller type device comprising a list of the device types of the one or more discovered devices that the controller can control.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~the method further comprising an act of determining whether the first device can control the second device by:~~ determining the lowest level of device type of ~~that either is the device type of the second device or is a higher level~~ the device type from which the device type of the second device depends, ~~in the list of device types that can be controlled by the controller, to determine~~ and the extent to which the first device can control the second device.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, ~~wherein the further comprising acts of: receiving a controller query message including a requested device type value is~~ provided to request whether the controller first device is able to control a device of the requested device type; and

~~responding with a controller response message including a device type in the~~ extended device description message value representing the lowest level of device type ~~in the list of device types that either is the requested device type or is a higher level device~~ type from which the requested device type depends.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined ~~top level elements in the device type hierarchy further include~~ includes a composite device type, and the first device is of the composite device type having the functionality of an integer number of other devices, and ~~the method further comprising an act of:~~

~~— responding to a received simple device description query message by sending a simple device description message including the device type value representing the second device as a composite device and further an the integer sub-device number being the number of other devices~~ is the number of the subsidiary device types.

8. (Currently amended) A method of operation of ~~a first device to communicate with at least one of a plurality of second devices~~, the method comprising acts of:

at a first device:

~~receiving a simple device description query message from one of the plurality of second devices requesting a simple device description; sending to the one of the plurality of second devices, a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including a device type value representing a type of the first a second device, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of subsidiary device types depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type;~~

~~receiving an extended device description query message from the one each of the plurality of second devices requesting an~~ for which the extended device description is

~~available and from the first device when said one of the plurality of second devices requires the extended device description required; and,~~

~~sending wherein the extended device description is received in a of variable length message to the one of the plurality of second devices when the extended device description is available on the first device and the extended device description is required by the one of the plurality of second devices.~~

9. (Currently amended) A first device plurality of devices including a transceiver for sending and receiving messages and a message handler arranged in a communication network with a plurality of second devices, ~~the~~ a first device of the plurality of devices being configured to perform acts of:

~~in response to receiving a simple device description query message from one of the plurality of second devices, sending to the~~ receiving from one of the plurality of second devices, a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including a device type value representing a type of the first one device and indicating whether an extended device description is available, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of subsidiary device types depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type; and

~~in response to receiving an extended device description query, sending an extended device description message of a variable length if the extended device description is available, and not sending the extended device description query message in response to~~

~~receiving the extended device description query message from the other one of the plurality of second devices when the extended device description is not available.~~

10. (Currently amended) The ~~networked device~~ according to claim 9, wherein the simple device description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, ~~the simple device description message including a device type value representing the type of the other one of the plurality of second devices, the device type value being selected from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top level elements including a controller device type and a basic device type, and at least one further level each of the subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends, but not including any further level of subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.~~

11. (Currently amended) A first device, including a transceiver for sending and receiving messages and a message handler arranged in a communication network with a plurality of ~~second devices~~, the first device being configured to perform acts of:

~~sending a simple device description query message to discovering at least one of the plurality of ~~second devices~~;~~

for each discovered device for which the simple device description is required,  
requesting a simple device description; and receiving from the at least one of the plurality of

~~second devices, a simple device description message of fixed length including a~~ the device  
~~type value representing a type of the~~ at least one of the plurality of second devices and a  
~~field indicating whether an extended device description is available,~~ the device types  
forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of subsidiary device types  
depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device  
type; and

testing the simple device description message to determine whether an extended  
device description is available; ~~sending an extended device description query message to~~  
~~the one of the plurality of second devices~~ for each device for which the extended device  
description is required, requesting an extended device description when the testing of the  
simple device description message indicates that there is an extended device description;  
and receiving from the at least one of the plurality of second devices the extended device  
description of variable length ~~when the extended device description is available.~~

12. (Currently amended) The first device according to claim 11, wherein the simple device  
description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a  
human-readable message format, ~~the simple device description message including a~~  
~~device type value representing a type of the one of the plurality of second devices, the~~  
~~device type value being selected from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top~~  
~~level elements including a controller device type and a basic device type, and at least one~~  
~~further level~~ each of the subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and

inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends, ~~but not including any further level of the subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.~~

13. (Currently amended) The first device according to claim 12, wherein the first device ~~has~~ is the controller device type, ~~wherein the first device and~~ comprises a list of device types that can be controlled by the first device, and further comprising an act of so that the first device can determine an extent to which the first device can control another device by determining a lowest level of device type that either is of the device type of the at least one of the plurality of second devices or is a higher level the device type from which the device type of the at least one of the plurality of second devices depends and the extent to which the first device can control the at least one device of the plurality of devices.

14. (Currently amended) The networked device according to claim 13, wherein the message handler is arranged:

to receive a ~~controller query message~~ request from a third device including a device type value ~~to request inquiring whether the controller first device~~ is able to control a device of a device type of the third device type; and

to respond with a ~~controller response message~~ including a device type value representing the lowest level of device type in the list of device types that either is the third device type or is a higher level device type from which the third device type depends.



15. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of networked devices each having a transceiver for sending and receiving network messages;

at least one networked device of the plurality of networked devices ~~being~~ is arranged to request ~~send a simple device query message to other devices of the plurality of networked devices~~ and to receive and interpret simple device description messages subsequently received from the other devices of the plurality of networked devices; and ~~the~~ at least one networked device of the plurality of networked devices being arranged to request send an extended device query message to other networked devices and to receive and interpret extended device description messages subsequently received from the other networked devices;

each of the networked devices being arranged to respond to an incoming simple device request ~~query message from an other of the plurality of networked devices~~ by sending a simple device description message of defined length including a device type value representing the type of the responding networked other device and indicating whether an extended device description is available, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of subsidiary device types depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type; and

~~— a first one of the networked devices is arranged to respond to an incoming extended device query message from a second one of the plurality of networked devices by sending~~

~~an extended device description message when the extended device description is available, and not sending the extended device description query message in response to receiving the extended device description query message from the second one of the plurality of second devices when the extended device description is not available.~~

16. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of networked devices includes at least one simple device without the capability to decompress messages and interpreting directly compressed messages and at least one complex device including a message decompression arrangement for decompressing the messages and a message interpreter for interpreting the decompressed messages.

17. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the predetermined top level elements further include a composite device type; the system includes at least one networked device of the composite device type having the functionality of a predetermined number of other devices, the predetermined number being an integer greater than or equal to 2; and each of the at least one networked device of the composite device type responds to an incoming device query message requiring a request of a simple device description by sending a simple device description including the device type as a composite device and a sub-device number representing the predetermined number of other devices.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method acts are encoded in aA computer program for controlling a networked device, the computer program being arranged to cause the networked device to carry out the acts of a the method according to claim 1.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method computer program according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the computer program is recorded on a non-transitory data carrier.

21-22. (Canceled)